

## COMICS PRESENTS:



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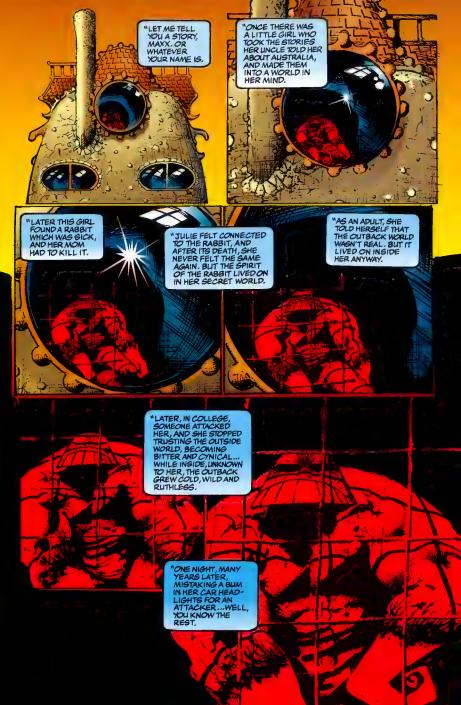


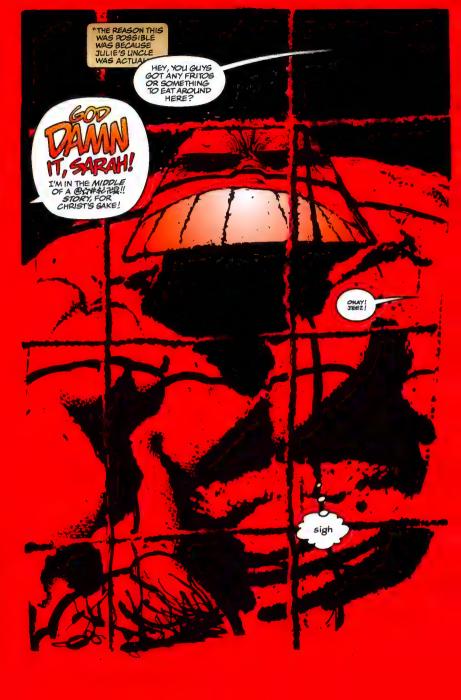


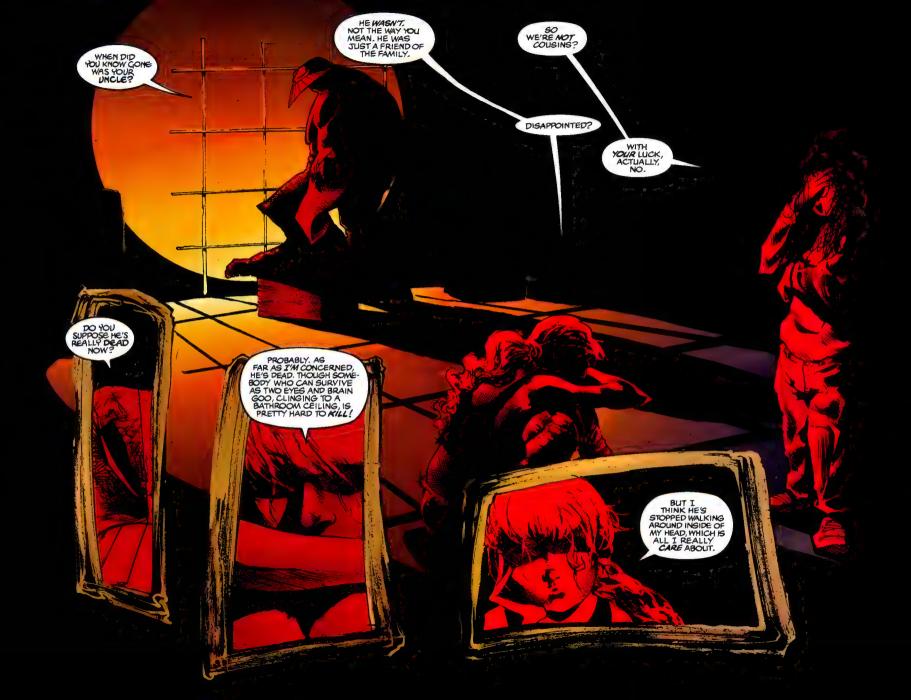














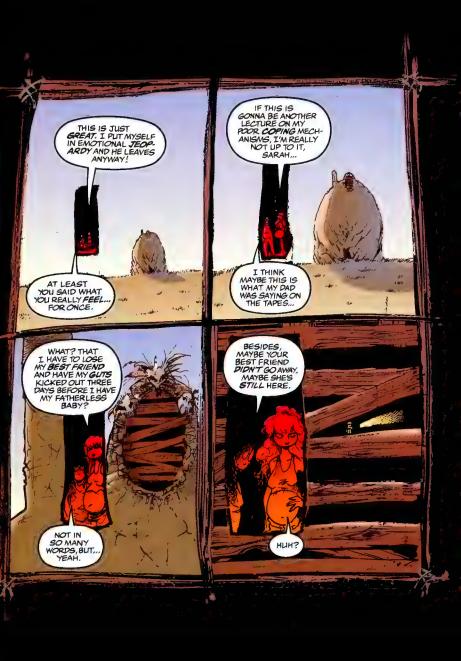
















Dear Sam,

Liust picked up Issue #18 of The Maxx and felt that now was a propitious moment to write. seems, based on one of the letters in Maxx Traxx and corroborated by an interview in a comics preview magazine, that the series will be time-warped 10 years into the future and concentrate on Sara and her outback, beginning with Issue #21. While I have no objections to this (after all, Sara is as much a part of the series as The Maxx and Julie and it is your work), there are some concerns that I and possibly several other fans have. Mainly, what happened to The Maxx and Julie?

Someone once said that a story lives when the characters grow beyond the bounds of their definition. They become more than just the words they speak or the actions they perform. They take on a life of their own and have a part in deciding what paths their lives take as much as their creator. That is why there are bad stories about good characters, stories that just "don't work." The writer tries to make the characters do or say something that is partly or wholly inconsistent with who they have become.

The characters in The Moxx live. I could not believe for a moment that Julie would vanish from The Moxx's life, never to be heard from again. Of caurse, this phase of The Maxx's life isn't over yet so perhaps something will happen in the next two issues that would change this. Wishful thinking on my part happes that it won't.

Sincerely, Gary D. Snyder Gardnerville, NV



I'm a 20 year old Italian student and when I started to collect the 'Maxx I didn't understand anything! Your book is very difficult to read for a boy that knows little English.

But your incredible art is easy to "read," and it's easy to low. It was the art that kept me buying the Maxx for the first half dozen issues, but after my translating skills improved I began to toste the real Maxx and to enjoy it so much that your book is now in my top ten hit comics!

I'm very glad that you intend to conclude this storyline in Issue 20 because I love the complete stories that don't go on, and on, and on, and...(you get it), but what makes me even more happy is that you'll start

PAVE RAMEY Portsmouth, VA

with an all new, all different storyline focused on Sara. She is my favorite character with her dad and the prisoner in Issue #16. I'm sure it'll be great if you keep doing the art and the writing, with Bill of course!

And now I have some questions for you:

(1) Why not another #1 (vol. 2) instead of Issue #21? (2) Will the Maxx, Julie's Maxx, still be around in the new storyline?

Keep up the good work!

Your greatest Italian fan, Marco 'Gambit' Bergonzini Modena, Italia

Some folks feel ripped off by another #1. They also feel more like a real ending/beginning. I decided to continue numbering in the old series because it's the same universe, just ten years later. There's still more of the old story to tell, too.

Nothing disappears without a tracel

Incidently, I keep spelling Sara without the "h" in my sketchbook and Bill keeps adding one. One of these days we have to get that straightened out...

Sam.

My mom read No. I and said it was weird, wisted and sick. Keep up the good work! Mike Schwaner

Northport, NY

Thanxx!

Dear Sam,

URGENTIII For the past few months my fellow MAXX-head and I have been flooding Todd McFarlane's E-mail address with letters demanding the immediate production of our MAXX action figures. Well, lo and behold, in Issue #17 you announced that our MAXX toys will finally become a reality. At last, I thought, the fruits of our fabor have been realized! But don't thank us yet, Sam. In order to have the ulti-



mate MAXX toys, you \*MUST\* remain true to the MAXX mythos. In other words, we want our Julie toys fully equipped with pot-belly and stubble! We want our MAXX figures to include his cardboard box and street clothes! Yes Sam, you must include the dwelling of the MAXX! Sam, I trust that you will not let us down. Don't let success elude you because you forgot to consider these basic MAXX!ike elements! What follows is a list of what we'd like to see:

- Out Back MAXX (don't forget the big feet and the bagels)
- 2. Jungle Queen with pet leopard
- Mr. Gone with Glow-in-the-dark hand (and detachable head)
- Outback animal set (seussadons, crabbits, slugs, etc.)
- 5. Little kids' package (Harry, Linc, Jaster etc.)
- L'il Julie (with rabbit box, MAXX skull, and baby leopards)
- 7. Uncle Artie
- 8. Pregnant Julie (with red hair)
- 9. Buick
- 10. Julie's mom with bloody shovel

So there it is, Sam, do us proud. Pez will soon be ours. LONG LIVE THE MAXXIII!

Looking for squid, Tom "I was a Teenage MAXX" Hahn Mike "Nine years to go on that Pez dispenser" Hauswirth

All right guys,

D'ohl).

I'm going to try this again. I'm going to write to you in the hopes that this time you will print my letter. I don't know what I did last time to offend you so much that you wouldn't print it, but I hope that I don't do it again. I mean, what did I do last time? I heaped tons of praise on both you, Mr. Kieth, and you, Mr. Messner-Loebs, and you didn't print my letter (although, having tons of praise heaped on you might be painful, because I hear that stuff is real heavy [unless it's faint praise—sorry]). I gushed about how cool the book and all the characters within are, and that each month you manage to bring a little ray of sunshine to all of us fanboys'/girls' collective little hearts, but you didn't print my letter. I used lots of cute little quips and pop-culture references, and you didn't print my letter (although, I'm doing that in this letter right now, aren't 1? So I've pretty much doomed my chances of seeing this one in print, too, huh?

So I decided, in this letter I'm not going to do any of that (except for that part about the quips. Shut up Vladimir! Ah, the beauty of multiple personalities). No, this letter is to, for, and about all my fellow Maxx-heads out there. And I'm not talking about the people who discovered The Maxx solely because he was on MTV (you know the types, the people that used to beat us up in high school, who watch "The Real World" because they think it's high drama). I'm talking about the REAL Maxx-heads out there. You know who you are.

Maxx-head from MI, Chris Olson Menominee, MI



dearsam,

howmuchmoredoihavetokissyourassbeforeyouprintlofmystinkenletters?

yourfan, COREY NAS FELL Nantucket, RI

Kwitcherbitchin. We get hundreds of letters each month, and we read every one. We laugh, we cry, we throw 'em away (but never <u>yours</u>, of course!). And some we print. Go figure.

Aw gee—unbunch your panties. We don't really throw any away, honest. We're saving them all for Maxx in case he goes middle class some day and buys a house where he can sit on the patio and read them.

Two people wrote asking about the plural of "Is." But we're bored with answering that question, so see Maxx Traxx, Issue #2.

Dear Sammy K,

Just wanted to let you know Mr. Gone as a sh\*tmonster vomited from a toilet is pretty good. I laughed for days. I also thought those flying frogs were essential to the story, but then, so was that butt shot of the Hooly.

Love 'n' stuff,

Love 'n' stuff, Holly Donohoe Ft. Lewis, WA

How come it's always the women that notice the gratuitous butt-shots in The Maxx?



Time for one of those "we-have-no-ideawhy-we're-printing-this-other-Rebbit (bunny) than-it-cracked-us-up" letters:

Dear Sam and Bill.

You're swell. I just want to bite you all over. Good book, Yup, I'm not going to summarize to you guys what you already know (considering you wrote it so here's my opinion on

everything: Clockwork Orange is good, I NEED A MAXX PEZ DISPENSER, Bill Loebs kicks my ass, and I want you to keep going after #20. Really bad. But only if you want to, huh?

Okey-Dokey, Smokey, Chris Forgues Ashby, MA

Dear Sam,

Recently, and for reasons that aren't worth retelling, I was reading Issue #12 of "Spaced" by Tom

Stazer, published by Eclipse in 1987. And what do I see on the first page of the comic? Something that looks surprisingly like an Is, operating a hologram projection machine!!

Tom mentions you in the back of Bug (Bee) the book in connection with a possible future cover of "Spaced" (unfortunately #12 is the only issue I own), but he doesn't give you credit for the Is on page one. Is this the first published appear-

ance of an Is? I'd love to hear the whole story, as I'm sure would all of your rabid

Mike Crouch San Francisco, CA

P.S. A big hello and a scratch behind the ears to Morocco, party dog, of Ish #13.

That was back in my black & white +uRtie days when I couldn't get arrested, let alone published. I kept sneaking Isz into other people's b/w books in hopes of pooching some validity. It

never took, but Tom was nice enough to stick a totally irrelevant is in his story.

I see everyone's nodding off as we stroll down Memory Lane. Moving along...

> Dear Sam. As always, Bill Messner-Loebs and you have teamed up to produce the weirdest of weird tales, but with the conclusion to the current story arc being only a couple of issues

away, things do feel as if they are slowly starting to come together. Layer after layer, the thick plot is being uncovered as well as the truth behind the main characters of the book and their connection between one another. Maxx, Julie, Sara, Mr. Gone, even the Isz-it's slowly starting to make some

sense, in that recent issues have begun answer-Snake ing some of the dozens of questions raised in the first issues of the series.

Of course, this book wouldn't be this book if answering questions

would not include throwing in some of the weirdest of occurrences. For this issue, the abominable Hooly fits the bill. Seeing how this charac-

ter, monster, beast or whatever, is able to kill anybody with his head-swatting them like a mere fly-makes me wonder who spiked the punch you were drinking when you came up with the Hooly! Ouch!

> Olav Beemer The Netherlands

It took Bill a while to warm up to the Hooly. He kept asking me, "What the hell is this Hooly thing?" After being confronted by a horde of fans chanting "Beware the Hooly" at a recent signing, however, he smartly changed his mind. Now he, too, is hangin' with the Hooly.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

What's with Julie coming back with red hair? And why did she leave her record collection just sitting there?

Tosha Moorefield Pine Hall, NC

She took it with her and brought it back again. And what have you got against red hair?

Bigd (Paraket)

Dear Sam.

Do you realize the way you draw violates every law about drawing comics? Colin O'Key

Cape Coral, FL

What laws?

Hey Sam.

Less sex stuff! Mom see, mom confiscate! Comprende?

Proud bald overweight midget male/female Maxx fan,

Colin Fox Nanpa, ID

Si. Hey—your mother's con-fiscating your books and you're bald?? How old are you, anyway?

Dear Mr. Kieth,

What will happen when Julie finds out the truth? Will you keep on writing? Thanks.

Tyler Bewley Piedmont, CA

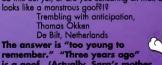
Yup. Hi Sam!

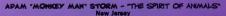
There's one thing that has been bothering me for

some time now, and I can't figure it out. When did Sara's dad kill himself? (OK, he didn't really, but anyway:) was it when Sara "was young, too young to remember," or was it "three years ago?" And how come no one else point-

ed this out yet, or are you censoring all mail about what

The answer is "too young to remember." "Three years ago" is a goof. (Actually, Sara's mother





lied, wanting Sara to believe he suicided instead of being a rapist.)

Dear Oh Great Father of MAXX

Being 11 years old, I am one of the younger Maxxheads. So this is a legit question. Why is Mr. Gone the villain? I mean, he's actually good for Sara, Maxx, and Julie. I

good for Sara, Maxx, and Julie. I mean all he does is tell the TRUTH! Which brings the question, how will the truth kill Julie? MAXXhead

Matt Fisher
Ormand Beach, FL
Well, Matt, you hit upon the
very problem we never
could figure out—the old
Hannibal Lector manysided dimensional villain problem. The flip
answer is that Mr. G.
is so twisted and
corrupt that he doesn't even make a
good villain. But the

real answer is that

Mr. Gone's role as antagonist is about finished for this story.

In #21, he becomes just Sara's dad. But there'll be a new villain from Sara's outback, and it's all set in motion by that little

yellow banana slug that was squished in

AL PUBREUIL

Westport, MA

this issue...(hint: he's not completely

dead...)
Some people who write in are really down, really depressed. Remember that even Maxx has some compassion for for the ugly ducklings and underdogs, including himself (and even ! have to have some compassion for myself in order to get out all this bad art every month!). To quote the great Frank Zappa: "I just want to say something to all the beautiful people out there. There's more of us ugly mothers out here than you. So watch your step,"

Dear Sam,

I am not that popular or "cool" at school. (Hell, the Maxx is cooler than me.) I have no friends and there is no way I could ever get a girlfriend. Most of the time I just look away to the stars, never my mind on where I am or what I am doing. The only way I get attention is to recite lines from the Star Wars trilogy. I keep my sanity by hanging out with



my action figure collection and reading comics. I can feel reality slip away every day but then it comes back and smacks me in the face and I realize how bad off I really am. I wrote this letter just to say The Maxx kicks ass and to tell the world for just

Maxx readers) that I AM A LOSER!!!!!!! Well Spawn and Zealot want to go watch Empire Strikes Back, so I'll be back.

Jason Quane 747 Marquette Ct. Hartland, WI 53029 se list my address so

P.S. Please list my address so people can comment on my let-

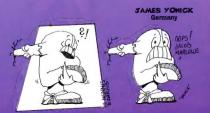
Another word for 
"loser" is "underdog." Chris Olson, 
the frustrated fanletterwriter from 
before, says it 
best:

To me, The
Maxx isn't just a
mere comic book. It
is a way for us to com
municate with like-minded people, and under-

stand not-so-like-minded people. It allows us to cross almost any type of barrier. There is no black or white, man or woman, adult or child, dog or cat, up or down, north or south, nothing. You see, deep down inside there is one thing that binds all of us true Maxx-heads together, and that is the fact that, all of us, in our own little ways, are the misfits. But there is no shame in that. The Maxx points out all the other misfits so we can find them, and stand alongside people who share the same things, think the same thoughts, and feel the same feelings. The Maxx shows us that we don't have to feel alone or afraid, and it reminds us that those like us aren't always out in the open enjoying the sunlight. Sometimes you have to lift that moss-covered rock up, just to find your friends.

So rejoice, misfits! Someone has at last lifted that rock, and we have all made the pilgrimage to huddle together in the shade. And whether you listen to Bowie or Eighties music, if you really dig Blade Runner or just have a weakness for ice cream, relax! There will be someone who feels the same way.

Thanks, Chris. See you all next month!







MATT COTE

## MIKE LIGHTFOOT Racine, OH

